

Neighborhood House Celebrates its Centennial

By Robynne Boyd

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, known as the Nabe, celebrates its centennial birthday this year. The nonprofit, which is now closely associated with the building it occupies on 953 De Haro Street, was established by the Olivet Presbyterian Church's Women's Guild in 1907 to help Russian immigrants adjust to life in San Francisco. Fifteen years later the iconic building, designed by famed architect Julia Morgan, was constructed.

The Nabe was one of hundreds of "settlement houses" that cropped-up throughout the country over the last century to help new residents settle into their adopted communities. It distributed food to needy families, and sponsored classes in English, sewing and other skills. The building was also used for weddings and funerals.

The Nabe continued to cater primarily to the nearby Russian community until the early-1970's. But in the last quarter of the century, the early waves of Eastern European immigration that had sustained Potrero Hill, bolstered by World War



Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

Local seniors Maxima Simpliciano, Mary Pappas, Delores Maghari, Jess Stuart Maybon, and Amin Vishalakshi gather at the Nabe to play Bingo.

Residents Trash Street Sweeping Proposal

By Lorraine Sanders

After receiving a negative response from San Franciscans to a proposal that would increase early morning street sweeping in parts of the Mission and lower Potrero Hill to three times a week, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has decided to consider alternatives. "We've had two public hearings, and we've had pretty much overwhelming concern," said DPW spokesperson Christine Falvey.

According to the DPW's Bureau of Street Environmental Services, between 2005 and 2006 calls to the City's 28-CLEAN hotline for street cleaning service rose by 18 percent from 2,693 to 3,196. According to the Department's website, the mechanical street sweepers often cannot handle the large amounts of street trash, and back-up sweepers have to be dispatched to complete the routes. In addition to high volumes

of trash, the DPW is concerned about leaves clogging catch basins in the City's drainage system and causing flooding. Hearings to discuss the new schedule were held in January and February. A third hearing is planned for March or April.

While many residents would like to see less trash and debris cluttering the streets and sidewalks near their homes, the idea of moving their cars three or four mornings a week by 6 a.m. sounds worse than the status quo.

"The cure's worse than the cancer," said Bret Putnam, who has lived on Utah Street for four and a half years, and parks his car on the street every night when he returns home from work.

The proposed changes, which vary by street and are described in detail on the DPW's web site,

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Nail Salons May Cause Health Risks to Workers

By Lorraine Sanders

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Over the past half-decade intermittent outbreaks of dangerous mycobacterial infections from unsanitary foot spas at nail salons have left many consumers worried about the health risks of one of their favorite pampering rituals. The resulting public pressure prompted Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign Assembly Bill 409, the Emergency Nail Salon Law, in 2006. The law gives health officials the authority to immediately suspend the licensees of salons that have violated health and safety codes, instead of having to wait until a hearing is held.

While politicians have quickly responded to health risks to consumers, less attention has been paid to the health concerns of the largely female, mostly Vietnamese-American population that work in nail salons. "Part of it is that the

majority of the nail salon workers are basically voiceless," said Tin Nguyen, director of the Vietnamese Nail Care Professional Association (VNCPA), a membership-based organization Nguyen began in 2004 in hopes of eventually creating a nail worker union.

VNCPA has roughly 100 members, far less than the numbers required to form a powerful union. Nguyen attributes the lackluster response on the part of workers to cultural differences between Vietnamese-Americans and the larger society. "There is no such thing as a union over in Vietnam where they grew up, so the notion of getting together is not as strong as for Americans," he said.

There are 5,384 licensed manicurists and cosmetologists in San Francisco, according to the State

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Publisher's View: Parking Lot

By Steven J. Moss

Like most automobile owners in San Francisco, I spend a noticeable amount of time each week making sure my car is on the right side of the road during street sweeping days. Mostly it's no big deal: on my block the sweeps occur on Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m., a reasonable time in the morning to make sure my car is out of harm's way. I've received my share of tickets, to be sure, but in general the cost seems worth the trade-off to make sure the streets are clean, and that during rain storms toxic road pollution doesn't flood the sewage systems.

Some San Franciscans, though, have to cope with street sweeps that start at 8 a.m. or earlier, twice a week, with proposals to increase sweeping to three times a week. While I'm dressed by 8 a.m., I wouldn't relish having to run outside in my slippers and jammies to move my car first thing in the morning. For many of us, particularly those who work the night shift, an 8 a.m. or earlier street sweep essentially creates a no-parking zone the night before.

I don't know this for a fact, but my guess is that 8 a.m. or earlier street sweeps, no matter the frequency, are most often imposed on lower income

neighborhoods. That's certainly the case for a current proposal to establish 8 a.m. or earlier street sweeps three times a week on several blocks in the eastern Mission District and southern Potrero Hill. Under one Department of Public Works proposal, which already has been subject to significant criticism from nearby residents, portions of Bryant, Florida, Alabama, as well as 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 25th, streets would be subjected to thrice weekly mechanical street cleaning from 8 to 10 a.m.

The proposal is in response to increased complaints about litter. But there are lower impact ways of addressing this problem, including greater use of "green teams," which employ mechanical sidewalk sweepers and old-fashion muscle to remove debris, gum, and graffiti. We want our streets and sidewalks to be clean, but not at the cost of an overly burdensome approach that will almost certainly result in more parking tickets being imposed on working class San Franciscans. Rather than inadvertently punishing our citizens, let's employ them to address our community problems.

Democrats Re-Start Potrero Hill Club

By Joni Eisen

Not long ago Potrero Hill was home to an active Democratic Club. In 1987 then Assemblyman Art Agnos, a Potrero Hill resident, was losing badly in the polls to then Supervisor John Molinari in the San Francisco mayor's race. However, with strong support from neighborhood activists and progressive groups, Agnos surged forward to win the race. Galvanized by their grassroots success Potrero Hillers formed the Potrero Hill Democratic Club.

The club's political endorsements proved to be potent. In the 1990 election the club had the highest endorsement success rate of any organization in the City. Club members worked on campaigns, and registered new voters. They produced the popular "Potrero Hill 94107" t-shirts. They participated in community-building activities, such as helping to repair and renovate the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled residents.

But people moved on, or away. By 2000, a depressing year for Democrats, the club was officially dead.

Now it's 2007, and change is in the air. Democrats have regained control of Congress and with it their voice on

the governmental stage, with our own Nancy Pelosi starring as Speaker of the House of Representatives. And, of course, there's the 2008 presidential election in the wings. The time is right for neighborhood Democrats to reactivate their commitment to the true party of the people.

The Potrero Hill Democratic Club was re-launched earlier this year. In addition to promoting participation in the electoral process, the club will work with a new Potrero-based national organization, Democrats Work, to mobilize volunteers to support community service activities.

Regular membership is open to all registered Democrats residing in the Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and nearby neighborhoods. Annual dues are \$25, but no one will be refused for lack of funds. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available to those who live outside the club's geographic boundaries or are not eligible to vote. Meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

For more information about the club call 415.648.6740.

Editorial: Local Video Store's Untimely Death

by Peter Walbridge

It was with great sadness that I recently discovered that our local video store had died. There wasn't much warning, no chance to say good-bye. The many faces that worked behind the counter made-up the life and spirit that was our neighborhood video store.

Whether it went by the name Dr. Video or Four Star, it didn't matter much to my family or me. It was a local business that we valued more than just another restaurant.

The video store held a special place in the hearts of many Potrero families. It was where a couple could start or end a date on 18th Street. It was the place to catch-up with a neighbor you hadn't seen in a while. It was one of the first shops that some kids visited on their own; much like a library but with better hours.

It was the "go-to" place when a kid was sick and stuck at home.

I should have seen the end coming. It was more than just the recent passing of David, Four Star's owner. I admired and thanked him for keeping the video store alive as long as he did. But every morning I saw more people, good people, dropping their red Netflix envelopes into the mailbox. Each drop of an envelope brought the reality and my worst fear closer. My video store was going to die. It wasn't an "if," but a "when." Would I be out of town when it happened,

with a late-night call from Tee, the owner of Christopher's Books, to tell us to "sit down?" Between the Netflix envelopes, movies on demand, and illegal downloads, the store's days were numbered. I just didn't know the number would be so small.

Luddite, old-timer, road kill — call me what you want. I just think that a unique, independent retail store is what keeps my City from looking like L.A. or Miami. Our family does everything we can to keep our money circulating in the neighborhood; away from the out-of-state corporados and in the hands of San Franciscans. One of my favorite parts of the City is the entrepreneurial spirit that's still alive here, and so obviously absent from so many other places.

I already miss my video store. I never knew what a void it would leave. Unfortunately, it died of neglect. It perished because convenience is king and technology is a double-edged sword. For every technological breakthrough, like movies being sent through the telephone line or post box, there's a square mile of casualties. So long, local video store and all the folks who helped us through the years. You and all who worked the aisles will be sorely missed.

Four Star Video of Potrero Hill is survived by its sister store on Bernal Hill, and many lonely locals.

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Photo by Katherine Levin

Street Sweeping Continued from Page 1

would force residents without off-street parking to either park several blocks from their homes or move their vehicles in the early morning hours. For many, parking blocks away from home or getting up early to move a car are not just a matter of inconvenience. Kathleen Ryals, who has lived at 24th and San Bruno streets for the last two years, worries about how the proposed changes might impact her family.

"I am a single parent and walking with my children alone back to the house does not always feel safe.... Many of us do not have garages and need to park our cars on the street. We also have children, so getting up at 6 a.m. and leaving them to go move the car is not an option," Ryals wrote in an email to Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

Other residents say the changes may bring cleaner streets, but will also result in more parking tickets. "What will additional street sweeping do? We feel it must be to try to raise more revenue for the City via tickets given. This is a major inconvenience to the people who live there to play car roulette three times a week," said Del Greger, a Utah Street resident.

Greger and Putnam say increased street sweeping does not address the real problem, which is too much trash on the sidewalks. "There are a lot of homeless people in the Mission. My trash bins are gone through multiple times a day, and the trash gets left out on the sidewalks," Putnam said.

Many residents have suggested alternative solutions for tackling the trash problem, including breaking existing street sweeping routes into shorter segments and launching an educational anti-litter campaign in English and Spanish. And if, in

the end, increased street cleaning is necessary, why then, asks resident Dale Scott, does it have to happen at 6 a.m.? "I think people wouldn't be so upset if it was 11 to 2 or noon to 4," he said.

For the time being, at least, residents can relax. According to DPW's Falvey, "We're not increasing mechanical street cleaning anytime in the next three months. I think some increase will still be possible, but nothing like the proposal."

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When Four Star Video closed suddenly it felt like a friend had died. True to the grief process, at first I was shocked. Then I was angry. Now I am sadly disappointed by the inability of our neighborhood to support a local video store. The rumor that the space will be turned into a day spa leaves me disheartened. I have nothing against the future tenant or day spas in general, but it saddens me that yet another Hill enterprise will not be accessible to everyone simply by virtue of the type of business and the cost. Not everyone needs a day spa but a video store is something that most everyone can use and enjoy. I am worried that if we do not start supporting our local small businesses better we could lose our bookstore, favorite cafe or grocery next and that would be a real tragedy.

Lael Robertson
Potrero Hill Resident Since 1973

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Environmental Justice Takes it's Time

By Robynne Boyd

Two years ago San Francisco Board of Supervisor's Budget Analyst Harvey Rose released a report that was critical of the San Francisco Department of Environment's (SF Environment) Environmental Justice (EJ) Grant Program. The \$13 million program was established in 2000 as way to mitigate the additional polluting air emissions likely to be engendered by the sale, and ensuing harder use, of the Potrero Power Plant by Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Mirant Corporation.

The EJ Grant Program helps alleviate Potrero Hill's and Bayview-Hunters Points' environmental burdens by providing funds to nonprofits to implement EJ-related initiatives. One project, managed by Strybing Arboretum, which was awarded \$1.5 million, enrolled Southeast San Francisco residents in a horticulture program to help them develop careers in gardening. Another project, organized by the Housing Conservation and Development Center, was granted \$300,000 to install energy efficient heating systems and weatherize homes. Other projects provided education on nutrition and energy conservation, and outreach to seniors with asthma and other environmentally-related illnesses.

Rose's report found that the EJ Grant Program's administrative costs were too high, its expenditures too slow, and called for a more comprehensive evaluation of the program. Since Rose published his report, two more audits have been

issued. Last year TechLaw Inc., an environmental consulting firm hired by SF Environment, conducted an appraisal of the EJ program; and earlier this year the Office of the Controller completed a more comprehensive audit of the entire department.

Techlaw's audit "...process had two stages," said Indira Balkissoon, the firm's regional manager. "The first was interviewing both the grantees and SF Environment staff. The second consisted of a technical assistance-type meeting on how the process of awarding, monitoring, and employing the grant money could be improved using the information that we gathered."

Balkissoon explained that five questions were asked of the grantees and SF Environment: whether the grant recipients met their proposed objectives; the number of people employed by the EJ grant funds; how many Southeast San Francisco residents were helped by the grant-funded programs; whether the recipients leveraged the funds to obtain additional project support; and what were the project's short- and long-term impacts.

"What was obvious is that the City grant process was very complex," continued Balkissoon. She explained that the highly involved accounting procedure SF Environment demanded of its grantees virtually requires an accountant to fulfill, an expense that's beyond the ability of many of the small nonprofit organizations being funded. Balkissoon points to the City's legal requirements as being

responsible for the complexity. "As an auditor, I'm surprised by how much success the grantees had." Despite the accounting challenges, Balkissoon was impressed by the diversity of projects funded by the EJ Grant Program.

Techlaw's audit states, "Out of the 22 grantees reviewed, 13 met all or most of their objectives and seven met some of their objectives." The audit found the grant recipients' contribution to the Southeast San Francisco community has been "significant," and noted that even when grantees were ultimately unsuccessful in meeting their goals, "they frequently engaged the community and raised awareness of EJ issues."

Techlaw examined project expenditures between 2001 and 2006 totaling \$7.8 million. According to the audit, the funds supported programs that provided 10,000 people with services, the majority of which reflected educational efforts. The money also resulted in 340 adults being employed through projects on pollution prevention, energy efficiency, outreach and advocacy. Seventy-one asthma air filters were installed, as were 40 solar units, with almost 600,000 pounds of food distributed.

"I believe we're doing the best we can to accommodate, remediate, and mitigate food security, environmental equity, air quality, energy efficiency, and public health issues, and are distributing [the funds] in the best way possible into the community," said Gloria Chan, SF Environment



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Public Information Officer, "Any audit was useful to help us highlight what was done and what needs to improve." Chan noted, however, that the Department has not acted on the Rose report's recommendation that the EJ funds be invested more rapidly to address environmental issues. "There is no timetable," she said.

"If they have any money left they should get rid of it," said Olin Webb, Executive Director of Bayview
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Calling Artists of All Ages!

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- Who:** Contestants that live, work or study in Potrero Hill
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the **YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** series is organized by the Thick House
with the Potrero Boosters, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses,
Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Coalition to Save Potrero Hill
and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

Potrero Homes May Become More Affordable

By Lisa Tehrani

The average single family home in San Francisco costs almost \$1,000,000. At that hefty price tag a hopeful buyer needs to earn well into the six figures, and have a pocketful of cash, to afford to buy a home.

Prompted in part by concern over the City's limited supply of affordable housing, a number of community members gathered earlier this year at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House to discuss ways to create "below market rate" (BMR) housing in and around Potrero Hill. The meeting was part of a series of gatherings focusing on land use issues that are being sponsored by neighborhood groups, including the Potrero Boosters and Merchants Associations.

The Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and SOMA neighborhoods have long offered San Franciscans their best opportunities to buy an affordable home. The areas' predominately working class housing stock was first created in the 19th century, when Union Iron Works, the Central Water Front shipyard and other blue collar industries employed local residents.

The San Francisco General Plan calls for 28 percent of the City's new housing stock to be affordable to moderate income households, 10 percent to be affordable to low income households and 26 percent to be affordable to very low income households. According to Calvin Welch, of the Council of Community Housing Organizations, San Francisco has made significant progress in achieving these goals through construction, rehabilitation and the Care Not Cash program: more than 90 percent of the very low and low income units' goals have been reached. But only 10 percent of the called-for moderate income units, targeted to residents earning between 80 and 120 percent of the area's median income, have been created.

In an attempt to address the lack of moderate income units, last year the San Francisco Board of Supervisors amended the City's inclusionary housing ordinance to require that residential projects with five or more units make 15 percent of the units affordable to low incomes or provide off-site BMR units equal to 20 percent of the total number of units. If a developer decides not to build the units on-site or at another

location, a fee equal to 20 percent of the total number of units is assessed. New residential developments built in Potrero Hill and the surrounding area will be subject to the requirements.

However, even with the new inclusionary ordinance the City will continue to face a deficit of moderate income housing far into the future. In a further response to the unmet housing need, last month the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution that, among other things, establishes a goal of making 64 percent of new residential construction in the eastern neighborhoods BMR housing. The resolution also calls for identifying affordable housing sites and acquiring, rehabilitating and converting existing housing into affordable units.

The resolution's affordability goals drew protests from the development community, which argued that the expanded target in itself was unaffordable, and would debilitate San Francisco's residential construction market. The Planning Department, which is responsible for the City's existing affordable housing goals, was also initially opposed to the resolution, though it later changed its position. The Potrero Boosters Association, Neighborhood Parks Council, Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition and other community groups supported the resolution.

Welch believes that the City has an obligation to provide middle income families with access to affordable housing, particularly since "the jobs being generated in San Francisco are being generated at an income that cannot purchase market rate housing." He points to high land costs as the chief barrier to the creation of affordable housing, and believes that if San Francisco is serious about reaching its affordable housing goals it will have to set aside land to do so. Other ways to create affordable housing include legalizing second units, commonly called in-law apartments; further increasing the inclusionary housing requirement; and creating a special affordable housing district.

For more information about Potrero Hill planning issues check-out www.planpotrerohillsf.org.

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District 10 Supervisor Wants Economic Justice, Family-Friendly City

By Steven J. Moss

Last November Sophie Maxwell was re-elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, garnering 56 percent of the District 10 vote. The Supervisor, who was first elected six-years ago for a two-year term, is now guaranteed a full decade in office before term limits put an end to her board service. "I love every day, every second" of this job, said Maxwell at a recent interview with the *View*. "It's challenging, tiring; I have to think a lot. In the end I need to be more logical than emotional."

Maxwell hopes to use the next four years to increase economic opportunity for the hard-pressed families who live in her District, and to make San Francisco more family-friendly. She points to CityBuild, a Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development initiative that has placed 250 San Franciscans in high-paying construction jobs, as illustrative of the types of programs she wants to support. "A lot of jobs are leaving the City. We need to find ways to support those that stay. And we need more women-owned businesses – they tend to pay more," she said.

Maxwell, who grew up in Southeast San Francisco, and whose late mother, Enola served as Potrero Hill Neighborhood House's executive director for more than three decades, is protective of the community. "The people who are here should be viewed as assets. And I'm very protective of our industrial land – we need to be able to manufacture something in San Francisco," she said. Maxwell is particularly concerned about long-term residents, and unsympathetic to those who are looking for quick change or sudden wealth. "I see folks in the community who have come from poverty to middle class. They deserve a place in the City. Right now to live in San Francisco you already have to be middle class, or better. I want this to be a place of hope. We need to be more diverse than in just food."

"The people who have owned industrial land should expect their land to reflect that value" rather

than expecting windfall profits from new land uses, she continued. "We need to maintain industrial zoning." Similarly, Maxwell believes that new residents who "have just bought their \$2 million home" shouldn't expect existing land uses to disappear. "Our community has a history of supporting such things as workforce housing; the housing projects. They're not just going to go away because someone new moved next door."

Maxwell identified good schools, as well as access to health care and affordable groceries, as the cornerstones of a family-friendly City. "The Cala Foods are disappearing. We're losing mid-level food outlets. What's going to replace that?"

Maxwell believes that a subtle but systematic racism pervades San Francisco. According to Maxwell, "African-Americans are at the back-end of too many statistics. We're Eight percent of the City's population, and 50 percent of the foster care population. Our infant mortality rate is awful. We have the most people on dialysis; highest rates of asthma, breast cancer. Black men die at the rate white men did in 1941. Anything negative, we're on it. San Francisco is unhealthy for black people."

"If this is a crisis, where's the money to solve it? It's very expensive when people are in the system. We need to get them off the system, by creating workforce housing and jobs," she said.

Maxwell, who has been subjected to two re-call campaigns, says she knew the job wasn't going to be "sweet and nice." She points to her family upbringing and her network of supporters as her source of strength. She also looks to District residents to make sure she's doing her job right. "It's very important to have people who are aware and looking at things. Without all the dialogue we've had about the Hunters Point and Potrero power plants," for instance, "I don't know where we'd be. Democracy only works when the people are involved. Civic responsibility and participation is the most valuable asset a community can have. I never forget I'm a public servant; it keeps me balanced."

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Location: Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, Room 415
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Collage of Colleges Serves Nearby Neighborhoods

By Alysse Heartwell

Whether you want to save the world, start a new career, or simply improve your soufflé technique, you don't have to travel far. Throughout Dogpatch, Potrero Hill and Mission Bay, college campuses and educational opportunities are proliferating. Maybe it's time to think about going back to school?

In what was once an abandoned bus maintenance building that's been reborn as a solar-powered, cutting-edge green facility, the California College of the Arts (CCA) teaches students to "shape culture through the practice and critical study of the arts," according to its mission statement. In addition to degree programs in architecture and design, CCA's 8th Street campus offers "extended education" classes ranging from "Photoshop Basics" to "Ideation Sketching." Scheduled for evenings and weekends, the extended education program is geared towards adults who want to explore a new career, establish a portfolio, or simply have a good time doing something creative.

Just around the corner from CCA, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) has been steadily expanding since its 1999 Mission Bay groundbreaking. Genentech Hall opened its doors in 2003, followed by the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Hall, the California Institute for

Quantitative Biomedical Research, and most recently the Mission Bay Community Center, which includes a café, fitness center and conference facilities, all of which are open to the public.

But if you want to study at UCSF, Mission Bay you need to be lucky and talented enough to make the cut. In September 2006, 5,600 applicants vied for 141 spots at the campus' School of Medicine. "For local students who plan to pursue graduate studies in the life sciences, the good news is that they do have the opportunity to study at a world-class institution without leaving the Bay Area," said a spokesperson for the university.

Since 1979, City College of San Francisco has been providing students with free, not-for-credit high quality programs at their Downtown Campus on Mission Street. The Downtown Campus serves 12,000 students a year, two-thirds of whom attend fully publicly-financed daytime classes, including courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) and culinary arts. Many non-credit students go on to enroll in the college's credited programs, which are typically held in the evenings and are intended for those wanting to earn or finish a degree or upgrade their professional skills. Credit course offerings include

Continued on Page 20

Local Educational Opportunities

Academy of Art University
466 Townsend Street
415.274.2200

www.academyart.edu

Undergraduate, graduate, and personal enrichment programs in the arts.

American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
455 Arkansas Street
415.282.7600

www.actcm.org

Degree programs in Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Apparel Arts
2325 - 3rd Street, Number 225
415.436.9738

www.apparel-arts.com

Classes in clothing design, construction, patternmaking, manufacturing and production.

Asian American Theater Company
690 Fifth Street, Suite 211
415.543.5738

www.asianamericantheater.org

Theater classes for all levels and ethnicities.

California Academy of Sciences
875 Howard Street

www.calacademy.org

Lectures, teacher services, and early childhood programs.

California College of the Arts
San Francisco Campus
1111 Eighth Street
800.447.1ART

www.cca.edu

Undergraduate, graduate, and extended education programs in the arts.

California Culinary Academy
South Campus
350 Rhode Island Street
888.897.3222

www.baychef.com

Culinary arts associate degree program, and consumer education classes.

City College of San Francisco
Downtown Campus
800 Mission Street
415.267.6548

www.ccsf.edu

School of Business, Culinary Arts, ESL training, and more.

City College of San Francisco
Adult Learning and Tutorial Center

31 Gough Street

415.241.2300

www.ccsf.edu

Adult basic education.

Clay Studio
743 Harrison Street
415.777.9080

www.theclaystudio.com

Ceramics classes for children and adults.

Episcopal Community Services
Skills Center
165 Eighth Street, 3rd Floor
415.487.3300

www.ecs-sf.org

Vocational and educational programs for homeless and low-income students.

Film Arts Foundation
346 Ninth Street, 2nd floor
415.552.8760

www.filmarts.org

Filmmaking education and training.

Graphics Arts Institute, Northern California
665 Third Street, Suite 500
800.659.3363

www.pinc.org/pages/gai_view_events.asp

Business-centric classes for print industry professionals.

Media Alliance
814 Mission Street, Suite 205
415.546.6491

www.media-alliance.org

Classes in journalism, strategic communications, and media activism.

Pyramid
880 Folsom Street
888.378.MIND

www.pyramid.com

Media and music production school.

San Francisco Art Institute
2565 Third Street, Suite 206
415.771.7020

www.sfai.edu

Undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts.

San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking
2331 Third Street
877.292.4200

www.sfdigifilm.com

Digital filmmaking school.

somArts Cultural Center
934 Brannan Street
415.552.2131

www.somarts.org

Arts and self-improvement classes.

UCSF Mission Bay
415.476.3206

www.community.ucsf.edu

Graduate and post-doctoral programs in the life sciences.

Voice One
665 Third Street, Number 227
415.974.1103

www.voiceoneonline.com

Voice-over training and acting school.

The Voice Studio
1399 18th Street
415.648.4088

www.thevoicestudio.org

We want Your ideas!

UCSF is designing a new children's, women's and cancer hospital in Mission Bay.

Come share your ideas with Anshen + Allen, our internationally recognized design consultants, and help us craft a design that meets the needs of our patients and neighbors alike.

Please join us: **Monday, March 26**
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Genentech Hall Auditorium
1600 16th Street
UCSF Mission Bay Campus

• The 15 Third MUNI bus stops at the corner of 3rd & 16th Streets at UCSF Mission Bay. For more transit info, call 415/673-MUNI or visit: <http://www.sfmta.com/cins/home/sfmta>.

• Complimentary parking will be available to you the night of the meeting in the open-air lot on 4th Street, just off 16th Street.

UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you feel you have a need for accommodation, contact 415/476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.



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San Francisco

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www.community.ucsf.edu

Nabe Centennial Celebration

Continued from Page 1

II era African-American immigration, gave way to a stagnant community economy and a feverish political atmosphere. In the late-1960's Vietnam War protestors occupied the building. "...Parts of the community had fallen into extreme squalor," said Edward Hatter, the Nabe's current executive director. "Many community members were hoping for neighborhood revitalization."

It was during that period that Enola Maxwell, a lay minister at the Olivet Presbyterian Church, emerged as a civil rights leader and dynamic political activist. Residents urged Maxwell to become the Nabe's executive director. Although reluctant, Maxwell took the job in 1972 and immediately expanded the Nabe's programs to reach-out beyond its historically European-American clientele.

Shortly after Maxwell took charge, Bob Hayes, now 76, became the organization's resident photographer. "[Enola] had some advanced ideas and was involved with everyone," said Hayes, "And because she had so many causes that I believed in, I started helping her create the house."

Some Potrero Hill residents resisted the Nabe's transition from a community center that focused primarily on providing services to European-Americans to a more activist nonprofit that squarely took on economic justice issues. "As

the first black administration here, we were always being clumped in with Hunters Point," said Hayes. "Enola, Maya Sherhino [the Nabe's first secretary], and I came to work one day and there was a notice on the building door saying it had been condemned. We ripped the sign off and started working, giving away food to work on community sensitivity. We were giving away so much the Russians would stand across the street their arms folded, watching. These great big fat black women would put tons of food in their cars and drive away. The next thing we knew, the Russians were in line - we just kept on working."

Not long after Hayes and Maxwell joined forces, Ruth Passen, now 80, then editor of the *View*, joined the team, becoming "Miss Maxwell's" secretary. The three became known as the "fearsome three." "That's how it all started," said Passen "I had been doing community work, and it was a perfect fit." Over the years, Passen served as an event organizer, fundraiser, and program developer.

Passen recalls arriving at work one morning to find the lobby turned into a clinic. "Once a month the City authorized the Grove Street Clinic to establish a well-baby clinic provided by the City's health department, because anyone new to the City needed to have birth certificates, shots, etc., which most immigrants didn't know about," said Passen,



In 1944 the Russian Mother's Club sponsored a farewell dinner for Consul and Mrs. Jakob Lomakin at the Nabe. Potrero Hill Archives Project, courtesy Hazel Rudometkin

Despite Maxwell, Hayes, and Passen's good intentions, it was difficult keeping the Nabe open. Funding was tight, and, according to Hayes, a few realtors were trying to appropriate the Nabe's prime location. "Sometimes rivals would set off fire extinguishers to discourage us," said Hayes, "But we just kept working." The Nabe was granted landmark status in 1976, securing its position for the future.

Today the Nabe continues its role as a multi-purpose, multi-generational community center that "serves those in need from the cradle to the grave." The Nabe's oldest client is 94-years-old and its youngest, three. With an annual budget of \$1.4 million, the Nabe's 19 staff members, along with a few hundred volunteers, offer 12 different program areas -- including senior nutrition and after-school enrichment programs--that assist upwards of 10,000 patrons a year. The building is also the site of numerous community gatherings, serving as a once-a-month synagogue, and Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association and Democratic Club headquarters.

The Nabe's address has remained the same even though the building itself was moved across the street in 1924, which explains why 953 De Haro Street perches amid buildings with addresses in the 800's. "People come who haven't been here for 40 or 50 years and say, 'this building looks the same,' which could be a good or bad thing," laughs Hatter.

Hayes is quick to point out recent improvements to the building. "All the things we've dreamed about Edward has accomplished," said Hayes "The childcare is up to standard, solar panels put on, windows have been installed that will survive severe weather and keep the place nice and toasty." Hayes also emphasized that the Nabe continues

to welcome everyone and function without conflict. "Nobody's allowed to put another person down in the Neighborhood House," continued Hayes, "In the years when gangs fought around the Neighborhood House this was considered a neutral zone."

Hatter notes that the Nabe has expanded to serve the entire City, offering mental health services, and has increased its focus on education. Hatter stepped-in as interim director when Maxwell became ill in 2002, but has worked intermittently at the Nabe since he was 12-years-old. Over the years he served on the board of directors, was a program coordinator, and facilities manager. When questioned why he's stayed at the Nabe so long Hatter's answer was simple. "You know the song *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*," asked Hatter, "I guess is about me."

It seems as if this sentiment holds true for all of Nabe's employees. "All the kids are running it now - we raised them to get them to this point," said Hayes. "Edward's been there since he's six or seven. Kuzuri, [the Nabe's deputy director] grew up here. I have pictures of her since she was three. Everybody who's running and making decisions for the place were all raised here. It's like your kids taking over - they all call me Uncle Bob."

Hatter says the Nabe will celebrate its 100th anniversary through various small festivities throughout the year, culminating with a large party in August, since that was the month the center was first incorporated. "We're trying to launch as much information about the Nabe as possible, including what we do and what we need to do better," said Hatter. "Our 100th anniversary is a platform to bridge a relationship with our neighbors in the community, and the City at large."



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LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
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Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch, Acting Branch Manager

FAREWELL TO AMELIA MARTIN!!!

Amelia's official last day is March 1st. After 30 years of exemplary service to the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), she is retiring. She will be deeply missed by staff and the community alike. Well-wishers may leave a message with me, which I will forward to her.

LINK+ LAUNCH SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MARCH!

As Jensa wrote in last month's issue, the SFPL will expand its book collection to more than 20 million items! SFPL has joined the LINK+ system, a consortium of more than 40 California and Nevada libraries that will share resources. SFPL library users with a valid library card, who are unable to find an item in the SFPL online catalog will be able to search the LINK+ database and request what they need. Available items will be shipped to SFPL at no charge to the library user, for pick-up at the library location that you've designated. To learn more about this new feature, you can visit SFPL's homepage at www.sfpl.org, click on "What's New," then click on "LINK+."

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN MARCH

Special Program this month: Saturday at 4 p.m., Puppet Art Theater presents, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, an updated zany version of the classic tale of a boy who curbs his boredom by sounding his dad's wolf alarm, the "Wolf Alert 3000." Find out what happens when the Big Bad Wolf appears! All ages are welcome.

Other programs for children throughout the month:

- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring bilingual stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, March 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age three.
- Evening Storytime on Tuesdays, March 6, 20, & 27 at 7 p.m.
- Evening films on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. *Angus Lost*, *Harry the Dirty Dog* and *Pete's a Pizza*. For ages three and older.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FORTHCOMING EXCITING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS, TEENS, AND CHILDREN IN APRIL AND MAY!!!

New Kids on the Block and Other Family News

Happy birthday to Elliot Dole, who turned 2 on February 7.

Welcome to Henry Bryce Bartlett, who was born on February 19 to Stacey and Norm. Henry weighed-in at 9 lbs. 6 ozs. and measured 21.25 inches. He joins big sister Annabel Bay (who turns 2 in June) and Black Kitty at home. Mom reports he has a very sweet disposition and some of the largest cheeks ever.

Happy birthday to Jordan Lawrence from her parents Doug and Tricia. Jordan turns 3 on March 22.

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Dr. Jocelyn Cremer (Psy 15634)

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At Children's Day School, we believe in giving kids the room and inspiration to grow. That's why we provide our preschoolers through eighth graders with one of the largest outdoor school spaces in San Francisco, filled with farm animals and an enchanting organic garden. It's the perfect setting for an educational program that is project-based, integrated across academic disciplines and grounded in the concept of social responsibility. Our curriculum instills a passion for learning and fosters an attitude of care for self, for others, for ideas and for the environment.

We invite you to meet our dedicated team of educators. To schedule a tour and to find out about our sliding scale tuition, call Aimee Giles at 415-861-5432.



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Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

Occasionally a truck gets stuck on the crest of one of Potrero's famously steep hills. This one jammed-up the intersection of 20th and De Haro streets on Saturday, February 3rd, around noon, until a tow truck came to the rescue.

Bistro 350

located in Potrero Hill
350 Rhode Island
San Francisco, CA

The California Culinary Academy's newest restaurant, Bistro 350, offers a contemporary dining experience with bistro fare.



Enjoy savory selections from some of the most promising young chefs! House-made Pastas, Rack of Lamb, Lobster and Poached Salmon Medallions and more... All accompanied by an international wine list and exceptional service.

Open Tuesday thru Friday
Lunch 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.



California Culinary Academy
Le Cordon Bleu Program
San Francisco

Reservations: 415-216-4329

Events of 15 or more: 415-216-4338

Email: events@culinary.edu

View on Food – What's New



Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

Pedro Chi serves up ejotes with lime at Regalito Rosticeria

By Debbie Findling

When Chez Papa started serving French fare in Potrero a few years ago, the *Chronicle's* restaurant critic, Michael Bauer, dissed the neighborhood, saying "the tiny strip of shops on 18th Street in Potrero Hill is charming and comfortable, in a Birkenstock sort of way...but the coming of Chez Papa has revitalized the street." It took *New York Times* food critic, Amanda Hesser, to appreciate the Hill's understated elegance. She wrote that Chez Papa "sits on the corner of a sunny hill, from which you can see the bay, downtown and the hazy outlines of Nob Hill."

Whether you agree with Bauer that Chez Papa gave the Hill a Parisian flair or with Hesser who saw the Parisian flair that was already there, the Hill has cemented its reputation as a culinary destination spot in the ensuing years since the French landed. Mainstays like Goat Hill Pizza, Eliza's, Farley's and Aperto anchor the newer kids on the block, including Chez Papa's female counterpart, Chez Maman and cousin, Baraka. A handful of restaurants that have opened in the past few months have since added to the neighborhood's gastronomic allure – if there ever was any doubt.

Chef-owner Ziad Tinawi has been cooking since he was a teenager in Syria. Tinawi and his wife, Kimberly, who live on the Hill, opened Saffron 685 last November. Kimberly helped design the casual, yet hip space that has, in addition to standard tables and chairs, oversized pillows and low tables for diners who want to lounge and eat on the floor – Mediterranean style. Saffron 685 serves well-known Eastern Mediterranean dishes like falafel and hummus and lesser known but delicious treats, such as marinated jumbo prawn kebabs and pomegranate juice sparkling water spritzers. While Saffron 685 has attracted a large lunchtime following, the restaurant's low-key, order-at-the-counter atmosphere also makes it a great place for an early family dinner or quick bite before a movie.

The rumor on the Hill is that there's a new pizza place in the hood, but the folks on Goat Hill need not worry. Piccino isn't so much a pizza joint, as a café that serves a variety of lightly crusted gourmet pizzas alongside panini sandwiches, creative salads such as farro, frisee and blood orange, and sweet dolce if you just want a caffeine and sugar fix. With a menu that changes regularly

and an upscale, but comfortable café feel, Piccino is the place to relax with friends for a tasty bite of food to go along with a meaningful conversation.

If brown is the new black, wine bars are the new juice joints – they're popping up all over the City, including in Dogpatch. Yield Wine Bar puts to rest any future references to Birkenstocks on the Hill. With a floating gas fireplace hanging from the wall like a piece of art and box-cushioned bench seating, Yield remains true to environmentally-friendly San Francisco values by supporting sustainable winemaking and featuring wines from family-owned and operated wineries. Yield offers reasonably priced domestic and European wines by the glass and bottle, many of which are organic.

Yield also offers a limited menu of cheeses and snacks.

Located in the Mission District's gourmet triangle near Luna Park, Delfina and Tartine Bakery, Regalito Rosticeria is on the outskirts of the *View's* official jurisdiction, but the food is so good it warrants mention. Regalito is one of only a few Mexican restaurants in the City that is neither the ubiquitous taqueria nor the gastronomically-dumbed down Mexican chain. Chef-owner Thomas Pena pledges authentic allegiance to his heritage, offering compelling variations on home-style Mexican dishes. Not to be missed are the guacamole; free-range roast chicken smothered with a chile, garlic and lime marinade; grilled pork chops with onions and roasted poblano chile strips; and enchiladas verdes.



Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

Mediterranean fare prepared at Saffron 685

Piccino
801 22nd Street at Tennessee
415.824.4224
www.piccinocafe.com
Open everyday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Regalito Rosticeria
3481 18th Street at Valencia
415.503.0650
www.regalitosf.com
Open Tuesday – Saturday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.,
Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saffron 685
685 Townsend at 8th Street
415.863.2285
Open Monday – Saturday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Yield Wine Bar
2490 3rd Street at 22nd Street
415.401.8984
Open Tuesday – Saturday
5 p.m. to midnight
Closed Sunday and Monday

MARCH ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

March 1

Art: Exhibition and Opening Reception
Not Given: Talking of and Around Photographs of Arab Women. A multimedia installation on view at SFCamerawork. Using a soundscape of recorded voices, projected large-scale images and photographic prints, the installation unveils stereotypes and examines how the authority of photography can get lost in translation. This is the only U.S. venue for this thought-provoking show curated by local art historian and critical theorist Dore Bowen and French media artist Isabelle Massu. March 1-May 26. Opening Reception March 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. 657 Mission St., Second Floor

Music: Farley's

Melissa Rap's music runs the gamut from love ballads to angry diatribes. Her version of pop is as personal and arresting as hip-hop while offering the catchy rhythms and danceable quality of rock. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 1-18

Dance: ODC/Dance Downtown Festival
Returning to San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts for its 36th annual *ODC/Dance Downtown*, this year's event features four world premieres, as well as the revival of the acclaimed *Investigating Grace*. For more information or tickets, visit www.odcdance.org or call 415.978.2787

March 2

Music: Choral Concert

The California Bach Society presents, *Consolation And Comfort: Heinrich Schütz's monumental Musikalische Exequien*, and J. S. Bach's early cantata *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, also known as *Actus Tragicus*, two of the finest choral works of the Baroque period. 8 p.m., St. Gregory of Nyssa's Episcopal Church, 500 DeHaro. Call 415.262.0272 or visit www.calbach.org.

March 3

Kids: Summer Camp Open House
Crissy Field camp offers summer in

your national park next door. The open house is a chance to meet camp staff, see some of the experiences kids had last year and get involved in special hands-on activities like claymation, stamp making and organic brownie decorating. For parents, it's chance to sign up for first choice camps before they fill. Day Camps are offered June through August for children 6-13. The open house is 10 a.m. to Noon. Free. Visit www.crissyfield.org or call 415.561.7765 for more information.

March 4

Family: Recreational Activities

Bakar Fitness & Recreation Center at the University of San Francisco, Mission Bay is offering an afternoon of FREE, family-friendly activities for children 12 and under. 1 to 5 p.m., 1675 Owens Street. Complimentary parking available at the Mission Bay Garage. For more information: 415.502.4129.

Music: Sunday Afternoon Series

At Farley's, featuring "Darktet" performing jazz tunes, 5 p.m. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 8

Art: Exhibition And Opening

Seeing Memory at Creativity Explored, San Francisco's premiere gallery of artwork by artists with developmental disabilities. Explorations of the images and mechanisms of memory. Opening Reception March 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. Exhibit March 8-April 26. 3245 16th St. For more information, call 415.863.2108 or visit www.creativityexplored.org

Art: Reception

Banged UP, by Robert Gumpert, is a selection of images from the last days of SF County Jail 3, California's oldest working county jail, and the first days of its replacement, SF County Jail 5. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 9

Art: Photography Exhibit and Opening Reception

In Color 2 presents the photographs of San Francisco photographer Robert

Dufort in a solo exhibition entitled, *The Signs Are All Around You*. Dufort roams the streets in search of what is already there, but is usually missed by the average pedestrian. He sees layers of signage plastered to the walls and the new images and messages they create. Using a plastic camera, he is freed from the technical limitations of a traditional camera. Opening Reception March 9, 5 to 8 p.m. Exhibition March 9 - June 2. 2475 3rd St., Suite 251. 415.861.3997 www.incolor2.com

March 10

Kids: Family Performance

People Like Me 2007: Motion Commotion. An action-packed, global adventure full of dance and music. A wacky inventor on a quest for a free, clean and inexhaustible source of energy meets welcoming and talented people in Brazil, India, Africa, America, and along the Romani trail, who share their dance, music and food with him. This interactive, hour-long performance introduces families to the rich diversity of performing artists here in Northern California. Additionally, there is a free pre-performance workshop with participating artists who will share some fun, easy-to-learn dance steps and songs. Noon to 1 p.m. Come at 11 a.m. for free pre-show workshops. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. www.worldartswest.org or 415.474.3914.

March 14-17

Dance: World Premier

Kate Mitchell and Dancers Presents the World Premier of *Spirit House* at ODC Theater, an exploration, through danced and designed elements, of the human longing for transformation. The theater space will be transformed into a spirit house, filled with swirling rich fabrics, haute couture costuming, intricate set design, and movement ranging from stylized classical Indian and Thai influenced dancing to expansive, energetic, sweeping turns that resolve into weighted partnering. 8pm., ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street. 415.863.9834. www.katemitchell.org or www.odctheater.org.

March 15

Film: San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF)

With 125 films and videos, the SFIAAFF takes place March 15-25 in San Francisco, Berkeley and San Jose. The Festival opens with Justin Lin's new film *Finishing the Game* and closes with Chen Shi-Zheng's Sundance favorite *Dark Matter*. A special tribute will be held honoring local filmmaking maverick Spencer Nakasako. Films will be shown at the AMC 1000 Van Ness, Castro Theatre and Landmark's Opera Plaza Cinema in San Francisco, as well as the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley

and the Camera 12 Cinemas in San Jose. For more information or tickets www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org. 415.865.1588.

March 16

Health: Medical Options for Healthy Living

Learn how to make the food you eat work for you. Part of a series of lectures and videos on such topics as "headache relief," "slow down-slim down," and "no more back pain," this session focuses on "healthy sleep solutions." You'll sample the foods being discussed, including pumpkin and sunflower seeds. Free. 9:30 a.m. to noon. City College San Francisco, 1400 Geary Street. More information: 415.551.1122.

March 17

Music: Farley's 18th Birthday & St. Patrick's Day Party

Live Irish music and Celtic piper all morning long. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 18

Music: Sunday Afternoon Series

Featuring "Presidents Breakfast," 5 p.m. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 21

Music: Charlie Owen Band

Rhythm & Blues/60's soul music, featuring Katie Guthorn from Potrero Hill's Voice Studio, and Todd Swenson on guitar, 7 p.m. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 22

Community: Namaste Direct Fundraiser

Learn how microcredit has changed the lives of women & children in Guatemala. Food, drink, a silent auction & stimulating discussion, 7 p.m. www.farleyscoffee.com

March 29

Art: Show Closing & Reading

Banged UP, by Robert Gumpert, 7 to 9 p.m. www.farleyscoffee.com

Ongoing Through March 11

Theater: American Suicide

A world premiere dark comedy. *American Suicide* follows a decidedly normal man down an extremely odd path, and in the process reveals the darkness that lurks in our obsession with modern media. 1695 18th Street. www.thickhouse.org. 415.401.8081.

Through March 24

Theater: God/Death

Extended due to popular demand. The Custom Made Theatre Company tackles two of Woody Allen's existential plays, *God and Death* (the latter of which became the film *Shadows and Fog*). 965 Mission Street. www.custommade.org. 800.838.3006.



Banged Up

(Adj. Impulsed, broken down)

An exhibit of photographs from
San Francisco County Jails 3 & 5
by
Robert Gumpert

1 - 31 March 2007
at
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San Francisco

Opening Party: 8 March 7-9 PM
Closing Party with jailhouse tour: 29 March 7-9 PM

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Through March 25

Theater: *The Magnificence of the Disaster*

Extended: Rebecca Fisher's emotionally unflinching, searingly funny account of a Southern family's devastating journey from wealth and gentility to mayhem (and tragedy). 1062 Valencia Street, Call Brown Paper Tickets at 800.838.3006. www.themarsh.org.

Through March 31

Theater: *Tings Dey Happen*

Extended due to sold out shows. Dan Hoyle portrays warlords, militants, oil workers, prostitutes, and the American ambassador to Nigeria in his new one-man play about Nigerian oil politics. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. Call Brown Paper Tickets at 800.838.3006. www.themarsh.org.

Celebrate March 17th with us!

Happy
Saint Patrick's
Day

Happy
Farley's 18th
Birthday



Enjoy live Irish music and Celtic pipes!

FARLEY'S
community in a cup



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GETTING INVOLVED

Downtown High School sponsors a meeting with Principal Richard A. Maggi the first Friday of each month at the school. For information contact Babette Drefke, 415.282.5919. Next meeting: **March 2**, on Vermont St. between 18th and 19th streets in Room One, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **March 13**, at Sundance Coffee on 3rd Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 415.341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **March 27**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohillbiz.com or call 415.341.8949. Next meeting: **March 13**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **March 6**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, call 415.648.6740. Next meeting: **March 6**.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for the Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 415.819.4900. Next meeting: **March 20**. Next Volunteer Day: **March 17**.

Police Blotter

Monday, February 12, 2007, 3:00 a.m., 1400 Block of Bayshore: Five masked gunmen entered an office and held the maintenance worker and the front desk clerk hostage while they stole electronic equipment and an office safe. One of the victims recognized one of the suspect's voice as belonging to the security guard who was absent from his post at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 15, 2007, 4:03 p.m., 1000 Block of Connecticut Street: While on patrol in full uniform and in a marked police vehicle, Officers Rodatos and Scott observed a young man watching them. The young man dropped a white paper towel inside a planter box outside one of the housing units. Officers Rodatos and Scott confronted the man and searched the area where the white paper towel was resting. Inside the paper towel they found a crack pipe. They also found suspected crack cocaine on the ground next to the young man's right foot. A computer check revealed that the young man did not live at the location. Officers Rodatos and Scott transported the man to Bayview Station where he was booked for possession of narcotics paraphernalia and trespassing in the public housing projects.

Boycotters Target Israel

By Lorraine Sanders
Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Reviving an effort that was defeated by pro-Israel activists four years ago, a group of Bay Area residents under the umbrella organization the Rainbow Boycott Israeli Goods (RBIG) hopes to convince worker-owned Rainbow Grocery, the longtime San Francisco purveyor of organic and health foods, to remove Israeli products from its shelves. "Rainbow is a community-based store that takes great pride in being for the environment and ecology. It came out of the 60's movement, and those kinds of values are really in line with a boycott of Israeli goods," says RBIG supporter Rachel West.

West, a San Francisco resident who has worked at the coop for 21 years, says a boycott of Israeli goods would raise awareness about alleged Israeli war crimes and injustices the group believes were committed during last summer's war with Hezbollah, as well as the ongoing turmoil between Israel and Palestinians. West stresses that her views are strictly her own, and that she in no way represents the store or its policies.

RBIG launched its latest campaign to remove Israeli products from the shelves at Rainbow Grocery after the Israel-Hezbollah War last summer. Since then the group has circulated petitions asking shoppers to demand that the store remove Israeli products; held a fundraiser;

and placed a video on YouTube that features RBIG supporters explaining their reasons for supporting the boycott. In early January, the *Bay View* newspaper published an "Open Letter to Rainbow Grocery Cooperative," signed by 51 activists, that accused the store of stonewalling and refusing to address the boycott issue.

Rainbow Grocery carries only a handful of Israeli products; Rainbow Grocery Board Member Scott Bradley estimates the total number at less than a dozen. But RBIG supporters say the boycott is less about causing economic harm to Israel as it is about publicizing the adverse consequences of the chronic Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"It's an opportunity for people to get more information about what the costs [of Israeli policy] are to Palestinians and what the costs are to Israelis," says Nell Myhand, an Oakland resident and Rainbow shopper who has supported RBIG's efforts since 2003.

While RBIG has its supporters other Rainbow shoppers oppose the boycott. "It's such a slippery slope to forbid the selling of products from any given country. Then what? Do you not allow any products from any country for its sins?" asks Leslie Crawford, a San Franciscan who regularly shops at the store.

West, who's Jewish and immigrated to the United States from

Continued on Page 23

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Taizé at St. John's Christian Meditation and Chant Thursdays, 7:00 pm

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Inquiring Minds: Exploring the Intersections between Christianity and Culture

First Sunday of every month, 6:00-8:00 pm
March 4: "Gender and Sexuality in Nature: What Discovery Channel Won't Tell You" with Stanford scientist and transgender activist Joan Roughgarden, discussing her book *Evolution's Rainbow* (available at Modern Times).
April 1: "The Uses and Abuses of the Bible in Science and Human Sexuality" with the Rev. Jay Johnson, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. Readings TBD.



Music at St. John's

Saturday, March 17, 6:00 pm
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April 5 Maundy Thursday	7 pm	April 7 Great Vigil of Easter	9 pm
April 6 Good Friday		April 8 Easter Sunday	11 am
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Good Friday Liturgy 7 pm			



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Historic Steam Engine Needs New Home



Photo by Eric Dugdale

By Julie Mitchell

The U.S. Navy and City and County of San Francisco have purged more than environmental toxins from the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, which was contaminated with radioactive wastes. In addition to the unwelcome pollution, a number of long-term tenants, including various artists, have been evicted from the shipyard. Some have nowhere else to go.

One such tenant is the Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM), which lost its shipyard lease in August, 2005. The museum, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving steam and passenger railroad equipment, was forced to move its historic Southern Pacific steam engine, as well as its substantial collection of support cars and railroad equipment, to a temporary location in Niles Canyon, near the City of Fremont. GGRM's temporary home is the site of the Niles Canyon Railway, which is operated by the Pacific Locomotive Association. Without adequate space to show its equipment, all public GGRM activities, including docent-led tours, birthday parties, and "Rent-a-Locomotive," have been suspended. The museum hopes to resume these activities once a new location has been established.

GGRM was launched in 1976 when pharmacist and amateur rail historian Michael Mangini inquired about the ownership of the ex-Southern Pacific passenger steam locomotive that was sitting in the San Mateo County Fairgrounds parking

lot. He was told the vehicle had been donated to San Mateo County in the mid-1950s, that nobody wanted it, and that he was welcome to take it. Thus started a decades-long process of rescuing and restoring the vintage steam engine.

The steam engine, known as "Number 2472," was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1921. It was designed for high-speed passenger train service and to be able to pull large loads. The locomotive first worked with passenger trains on the Overland Route between Ogden, Utah, and Sparks, Nevada, serving for almost 36 years on the Southern Pacific Railroad. In the early-1950s it was transferred to commuter service on the Peninsula line. Its run ended when diesels replaced almost all steam engines in 1957, at which point Number 2472 was put on display at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds.

Once restored in the 1980s, Number 2472 steamed under her own power to make her debut at Railfair '91, held in Sacramento at the California State Railroad Museum. Shortly thereafter GGRM was created, with the Smithsonian Institute's Museum of American History pledging its support. The museum collected railroad artifacts, rolling stock, and the machinery and parts necessary to create a hands-on facility for the public. Number 2472, along with the rest of GGRM, settled into Hunters Point in 1990.

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Nails

Continued from Page 1

Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, with 308,639 combined licensees statewide. Over the last two years more than twice as many California manicure licensing exams were taken in Vietnamese than in English, the only two languages in which the exam is offered. Thirty-eight percent of the

nation's licensed nail technicians are of Vietnamese origin; more than half of the technicians living in the Western United States identify themselves as Vietnamese, according to an analysis of data from *Nails Magazine*.

A host of reasons – ranging from language barriers to a dearth of long-term research – makes identifying health and safety issues

for California's nail technicians complicated.

"There're many competing factors that we see," said Trang Thy Nguyen (no relation to Tin Nguyen), project organizer for POLISH, an outreach program to Asian youth and nail technicians run by Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice in Oakland.

The lack of health and safety information available in Vietnamese is one major problem that POLISH is trying to address. POLISH distributes information in Vietnamese to Oakland salon workers and offers them tips for staying healthy on the job, whether that means sitting properly while administering nail services or remembering to break for lunch in the middle of the day. Trang Thy Nguyen encourages nail workers to contact her with health questions.

Both Tin Nguyen and Trang Thy Nguyen point to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) toxic chemicals list as proof that health threats exist for nail salon workers faced with long-term exposure to nail products. "The EPA has a list of toxins, and they say that after exposure over years, [workers] can have certain irritations to skin and lungs," said Tin Nguyen.

Since 2001 the EPA has been studying working conditions for nail technicians in Houston, Texas to better understand the risks associated with chronic exposures to salon chemicals. So far the project has resulted in a booklet about nail product chemicals and their potential

health effects, as well as safety training programs for the nail care industry.

Skin Deep, a report published by the Environmental Working Group, a public health watchdog organization, has ranked cosmetic products by assigning their ingredients numbers based on 453 criteria, from "known carcinogen" to color additives approved for cosmetic use. Products in the top 15 percent of the rankings are labeled "higher-concern." Skin Deep lists at least 16 higher-concern nail products, including OPI Nail Envy and Natural Nail Strengthener; Naitiques Protein Formulas 1-3; and Sally Hansen Teflon Tuff Grow Long Strengthener. (See http://www.ewg.org/reports/skindeep2/search.php?main_cat=NAIL+CARE)

Each product rated as higher-concern includes ingredients that, at the very least, have been insufficiently studied to be proven completely safe for humans. Most are suspected of or proven to impose health risks. The Environmental Working Group is most concerned with products that include ingredients that have been classified in government assessments as "toxic" to humans, or found to be skin irritants, such as phthalates, formaldehyde, toluene, butyl alcohol and ferric ferrocyanide.

Despite the reported risks, the salon industry lacks a sense of urgency when it comes to the health and safety of salon products, said VNCPA's Nguyen, a microbiologist who studied at the University of

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Nails

Continued from Page 16

California, Davis and who now works at a large food company. Nguyen's mother, a longtime manicurist, suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome as a result of the repetitive motions associated with filing and servicing nails. "Our perception is that [nail care workers] don't understand the danger they are in," he says.

Nail technicians are dependent on their employers to protect them against workplace risks, including circulating the air inside the salons and providing goggles, dust masks and adequate break time. VNCPA recently placed ads in *VietSalon* magazine warning nail technicians about the potential health hazards associated with their profession. However, Nguyen said the workers he's spoken to are more concerned with competition from neighboring salons than health and safety risks. The pressures to keep costs low, provide speedy service and accommodate as many customers as possible overrule worker health and safety, according to Nguyen.

But those who work in salons say there are simple solutions to potential health issues. Cecilia Ngu, 25, a faculty member at San Francisco's International College of Cosmetology on Polk Street and owner of Presidio Heights Nail Salon, says worker health and safety is a concern but explains that basic precautions are easy to follow. "You do a fill-in, we like to open the door. [The technicians] have to put masks on.

They have to wash their hands before and after," she explained, adding that she advises her employees to shower and wash before playing with their children after work.

To address potential problems caused by poor posture and repetitive motion, Ngu suggests workers stand up and move their bodies in between clients. "They need to, or in the future, they're going to have back pain," she said.

Kelley Hensley, owner of Mani-Pedi on Potrero Hill, says most safety precautions for workers, as well as consumers, are just common sense. "Just like...a dental hygienist, for example, [nail care workers] wear rubber gloves to protect themselves. They scrub their hands.... Mani-Pedi provides a mask," she said, noting that safety measures such as masks, hospital-grade sanitizers and ventilation require a financial commitment on the part of the salon owner. Loc Nguyen, owner of the recently opened Potrero Hill salon Mademoiselle Nails, agreed, saying "we keep the doors open" to keep air circulating. With proper safeguards neither Ngu nor Hensley believes that there are significant risks associated with long-term exposure to chemicals in nail products.

Milady's Standard Nail Technology, the textbook approved by the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology for those preparing for the manicurist exam, advises future nail workers that "working safely and correctly will eliminate...side effects and allow you to work comfortably," but also advises nail technicians to

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"always work in a ventilated area." The text recommends emptying the trash frequently to rid the salon of materials saturated with nail products; avoiding pressurized sprays that can be easily inhaled; sealing containers tightly to minimize vapors; wearing safety goggles and dust masks; and keeping skin away from acrylic liquids, wraps, adhesives

and light-cured gels. Milady's also suggests that workers stretch frequently and visit a doctor if any muscular discomfort occurs.

Despite assurances from salon owners and others, Tin Nguyen is pessimistic that health hazards to nail technicians will be addressed soon. "There is currently no feasible solution to solving the hazards," he said.

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Raccoons, and Opossums and Skunks, Oh My!

By Robynne Boyd

It's not uncommon to see an occasional raccoon posse skulking across a San Francisco street. Nor is it particularly notable to spot a skunk disappearing beneath a bush. However, when packs of these critters are sighted repeatedly, for months on end, nearby residents start wondering what's going on.

"It's been an ongoing problem," said Loretta Whittle, a Candlestick Heights resident, commenting on an apparent inundation of raccoons and skunks in her Bayview neighborhood. "At least twice a week I'm woken by a skunk smell and about one month ago, driving down Jamestown Avenue, I saw a pack of five raccoons crossing the street."

Whittle believes that since construction started on the now-completed 100-unit Candlestick Point Condominiums in 2006, and Noteware Development broke ground on their 198-unit "Jamestown," project later that year, the displaced urban wildlife, primarily skunks and raccoons, have started calling her own backyard and neighborhood streets home. Both condominium projects flank Bay View Park Hill.

The park consists of a windswept grassy hill that provides fantastic City and Bay views, but little recreational amenities. It can be accessed through a quiet residential community. Many of the nearby neighborhoods have been developed up to the base of the hill, including Whittle's.

"The number of raccoons and skunks is definitely on a rise," stressed Whittle, "My grandmother bought eight homes in Bayview, two on this block [on Griffith Street]. I'm 50 and never until they first started the development across from Candlestick Park have [the animals] been uncontrollable. I literally thought a skunk was in my house, because every night for three weeks straight that smell would come and my head would hurt. Other people have complained about it too."

Whittle is also worried about safety. "I have a motion detector in my backyard, and I keep seeing raccoons walking around the fence," said Whittle, "I'm keeping my doggie door locked, because my puppy's just a little guy. Also, I'm concerned about the children in the area."

Johnny Johnson, Owner of Ned Loving Daycare on Griffith Street, one block away from Bay View Park Hill, said neighborhood parents have been complaining about seeing a bevy of raccoons and skunks over the last few months, although from his own experience, "I haven't seen too many of them."

After being chronically woken by the smell of skunk, Whittle contacted Noteware Development to ask what they were going to do about the new surplus of wildlife. No one returned her call. "I think it's a shame that they aren't doing anything about it," said Whittle.

"Very little of [the hill] is being shored up," said a Noteware Development representative who preferred to remain anonymous, "There's no reason the animals would leave the hill because we're in an old 49ers parking lot, and all

we're doing is excavating down a little and installing shoring against the hillside." Bay View Park Hill's northeast side has been excavated and filled with concrete in order to support the hill from sliding.

Continued on Page 19



Today's Real Estate in San Francisco

by Angela Rubin & Marianne Schier



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If she passes the house to you, the daughter, however, there is the simple likelihood of gift taxes, since our tax code allows a parent to pass no more than \$12,000 in assets to a child in any single tax year. She could, however, create an agreement that passes a \$12,000 interest in the home every year until you own it outright.

As always, the best advice is to seek the guidance of a savvy tax advisor. For all your real estate needs, just call Angela or Marianne at 447-6210 or 345-3169.

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While residents look to the developers for a solution, Jamie Ray, Director of San Francisco's Rescued Orphan Mammal Program, admitted that the City doesn't require developers to address disruption of urban wildlife caused by their construction activities. However, Ray said, not much can be done to stop animals from scattering. Ray also emphasized that dislocation caused by land use changes is not uncommon, and that over time the urban wildlife will find their equilibrium.

"When you clear a forest, all of those species are impacted, usually causing animals to spread out in search of new territory. People may experience a greater wildlife density in the surrounding area, but it will temper out," said Ray, "As the development is finished and trees and shrubs are planted, some of the wildlife will return."

Ray pointed to the Presidio as an example. "People in the Marina called for a year after development began in the Presidio, saying 'it's like we're living in a petting zoo.' The population did level off." Creating greenspace within a housing complex is one way developers can recreate urban wildlife habitat and ensure that some of the species return to their original home.

In the meantime, Ray said, there's little likelihood that adults, children, or pets are in danger of being bitten or attacked by skunks or raccoons. "To avoid confrontation with wildlife, there is the five second rule," said Ray, "Stamp your feet. Clap your

hands, and wait five seconds. This gives small animals a heads up to get out of the yard."

"Raccoons are not attack animals," continued Ray, nor are skunks. "They're not interested in anything larger than a small rat." Still, Ray encouraged San Franciscans to make sure dog doors are closed at night. "This time of year, from the end of March through the beginning of April, is skunk mating season," said Ray, "This is the reason people are smelling skunk...the female runs away from the male skunk, and if he has his wicked way with her, she sometimes sprays." Ray noted that raccoons keep rodent populations and grubs in check, making them an important part of the urban ecosystem.

Another way to reduce the raccoon and skunk population is by trapping them. "In urban areas, the most common species people are interested in trapping are skunks and raccoons," said Jeannine DeWald, Associate Wildlife Biologist for California Fish and Game, which is responsible for urban wildlife management. "They are so good at living around people and finding food sources around our trash, and so are present in much higher numbers than in the wild. In those situations we recommend that they are humanely euthanized." Generally, Fish and Game does not relocate animals.

For now, Whittle and her neighbors may need to become adept at the five second rule, and look forward to the day when both skunk mating and local development activity is over.

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Colleges Continued from Page 7

traditional classes, such as English and mathematics, as well as a fashion program and an extensive School of Business.

According to Steven Glick, dean of the Downtown Campus and the School of Business, the campus is very diverse owing to its central location, and students hail from all San Francisco neighborhoods. "The whole idea of a community college is open education, and that we definitely do," said Glick.

San Francisco is a culinary mecca for both eating and learning, and the area around Potrero Hill is no exception. The California Culinary Academy opened its Rhode Island Street South Campus in November 2005 and has been dishing out world-class cuisine and top-notch graduates ever since.

Academy students enroll in a 15-month program that includes one year of training and a three-month internship at one of the City's top restaurants. Most students are in their 20s, but many have given up prior, perhaps less stimulating, careers in order to follow their dreams and their love of food. Catherine Castillo, the Academy's director of marketing, talked up the program and its host city. "Here you have access to so many distinct neighborhoods and cuisines close by - you can go to Chinatown, the Richmond, the Mission. The breadth of opportunity is really incredible," she said.

Education in the culinary arts can also be a means to a better life. That's

the premise of the CHEFS program run by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) on Eighth Street, which also sponsors literacy and GED classes. The CHEFS program provides a route out of homelessness via vocational training. Culinary arts were chosen due to the food services industry's consistently high growth rate. The 20-year-old program has proven highly successful, boasting an impressive 75 percent job placement rate. Recently, a CHEFS graduate was named executive chef at a prominent San Francisco restaurant.

"We want the students to actualize their lives in a way that makes sense to them," said Lisa Stringer of the ECS Skills Center. "Education is the piece that acts as the basis for them to live their lives on their own terms."

Now in its 26th year, the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) offers a master of science in traditional Chinese medicine and a doctorate in acupuncture and Oriental medicine; as well as opportunities for students to work at the college's many clinical sites throughout the Bay Area. Training in traditional Chinese medicine includes the study of herbal remedies, acupuncture, nutrition and massage. Many ACTCM faculty members are also educated in Western medicine, and one of the college's goals is to integrate the practice of traditional Chinese medicine into the American health care system. ACTCM's main campus is located on Arkansas Street, with auxiliary facilities at Pioneer Square on De Haro Street.



Back: John Ellis, L.Ac., Frank Gilson, D.C.
Front: Jackie Mendoza, Manager, Fabiola Garcia, Manager

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Roche Dobois Manager Gundelinde Franz walks off in disgust after the shop's latest smash-and-grab break-in early Valentine's Day morning. The store, which operated for 26 years across the street from its current location on the Kansas Street Circle without a single incident, has suffered four robberies in as many weeks.

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Steam Engine Continued from Page 15



Number 2472 in its former location (l), and as a popular attraction (r).



Photos reprinted from www.ggrm.org

Among the most popular GGRM activities at Hunters Point was its "Rent-a-Locomotive" program, where visitors were allowed to become temporary locomotive engineers, sitting in Number 2472's cab and running it a short distance up and down the track. San Francisco father of four Mark Klaiman, Senior Counselor at Pet Camp, an animal board facility located in nearby Bayview, visited the museum with his family several times before it closed, and said running the steam engine was the highlight of each visit. "They had a huge, garden scale model train set up," Klaiman said, "and you could operate the steam engine, which I really enjoyed. You could tell the docents who worked there knew everything there was to know

about trains, and it was nice to see these older guys explain things to the kids."

GGRM is committed to keeping the museum alive, and is actively seeking a new site. According to GGRM Vice President of Administration John Sebastian, "It is our dream to have a location on the Peninsula. This would be convenient for many people and would provide easy access to the CalTrain track." Sebastian added, "We hope to have the Number 2472 back in operation during the first half of this year; and we hope that we will be able to operate the locomotive on the Niles Canyon Railway."

For more information on the Golden Gate Railroad Museum check-out www.ggrm.org.

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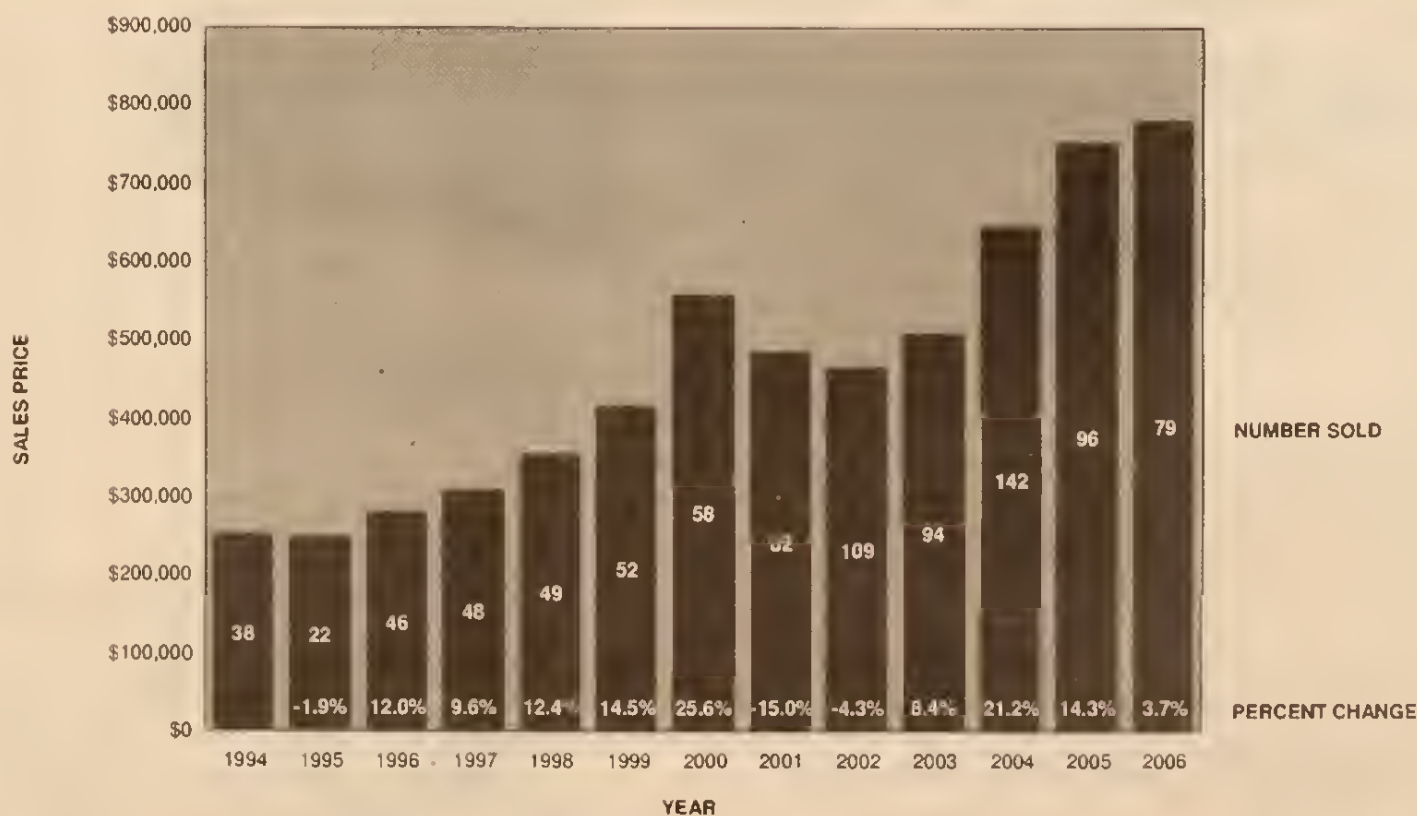


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Boycott

Continued from Page 14

South Africa more than two decades ago, likens Israel's treatment of Palestinians to the Apartheid system, which began to crumble only after international boycotts placed long-term pressure on the African nation's economy. "I feel that it's really time for Jewish people to speak out against Israel. As a Jewish person, I just can't stand by and watch them destroy a whole society," she says.

Yitzhak Santis, of the Jewish Community Relations Council, says West's viewpoint represents the "fringe of the fringe" of Jewish thought. "Human rights are serious issues, but [the boycott] is an ideological assault on Israel," Santis says.

Boycotting Israeli goods to protest that country's policies towards the West Bank and Gaza is nothing new. Organizations around the nation, from the U.S. Presbyterian Church to student groups on college campuses have supported ongoing economic boycotts against Israel.

Rainbow Grocery had, at least in part, participated in a boycott for a few months in 2003, during which individual store departments independently chose to remove Israeli goods from their shelves. When several shoppers inquired about the missing items, workers told them about the boycott. Shoppers opposed to the boycott organized counter-demonstrations that drew dozens of protestors.

"The main point that we made then and would make now is why are

they singling out Israel? Why aren't we boycotting products from Saudi Arabia, China, Pakistan, Egypt? There's a large dose of hypocrisy here," Santis says.

After activists and concerned shoppers on both sides of the issue protested outside the store, the negative attention prompted Rainbow Grocery to adopt an official boycott procedure. "Since [a boycott] affects the whole store, everybody got together and said, 'That's not fair,'" Bradley says of the individual departments' decision to stop stocking Israeli products. According to a statement posted on Rainbow's website earlier this year, the store's worker-owners voted the boycott down after the official boycott procedures were put into place in 2003.

While RBIG says it has support among Rainbow's worker-owners, Bradley says the number is actually very small. "I think that a couple of workers here are a part of that group, and, from time to time, they renew their cause," he said. Rainbow's official response to calls for a boycott, as stated on its website, is that "ultimately this decision must be made by the over 200 members that collectively make up Rainbow Grocery." At press time, no worker-owners had begun the official boycott proposal process.

For its part, RBIG plans to continue advocating for divestment from Israeli goods both at Rainbow Grocery and beyond. The group is currently planning to take its concerns to other Bay Area grocery stores.

Environmental Justice

Continued from Page 4

Hunters Point Community Advocates, "All of the money needs to go to the community and [SF Environment] shouldn't have any left now."

Six months after the completion of the EJ Program audit, the Office of the Controller completed a more comprehensive evaluation of SF Environment. While the audit didn't focus on the EJ Grant Program in particular, the Controller singled-out funding provided to the nonprofit Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), in 2001, to demonstrate that grant contracts need to clearly describe a project's deliverables, billable costs and reporting requirements. Although LEJ has spent almost a half-million dollars over a five-year period to build an educational classroom facility in Bayview-Hunters Point, the project has not been completed.

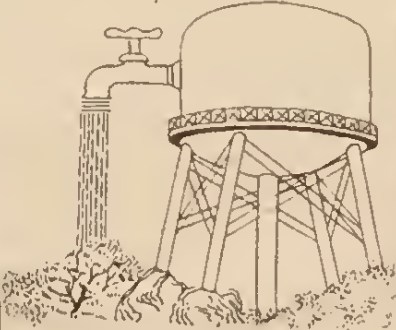
The Controller's report emphasized that SF Environment must do a better job ensuring that funded projects directly relate to the Department's environmental justice goals. The audit also suggested that SF Environment be able to measure each grantee's effectiveness, not just the program as a whole. Since the Department doesn't currently have this capability, the Controller's Office recommended that they hire someone to take on this role.

Both the EJ-specific and Department-wide audits suggest that the EJ Grant program has had some impact on improving Southeast San Francisco's public health and environment. However, along with

the Rose report, the analyses also indicate that the resources available to SF Environment could have been invested more wisely, more rapidly, and with greater beneficial impacts to the communities being served.

Saul Bloom, Executive Director of Arc Ecology, a nonprofit organization that interprets government documents from a public interest standpoint, and an early recipient of EJ grant funds, was unhappy with his experience with the EJ Grant Program. "The Department of Environment is the sort of organization that knows the price of everything and value of nothing," said Bloom. "They're incredibly interested in the number of flyers we were producing but not their quality. They also wanted to know if we had a certain number of meetings a month, but not the impacts of the meetings. They had a quantitative approach to it." With upwards of \$5 million in grant funds still to be dispersed, Bloom hopes SF Environment finds a way to invest the remaining monies wisely.

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